



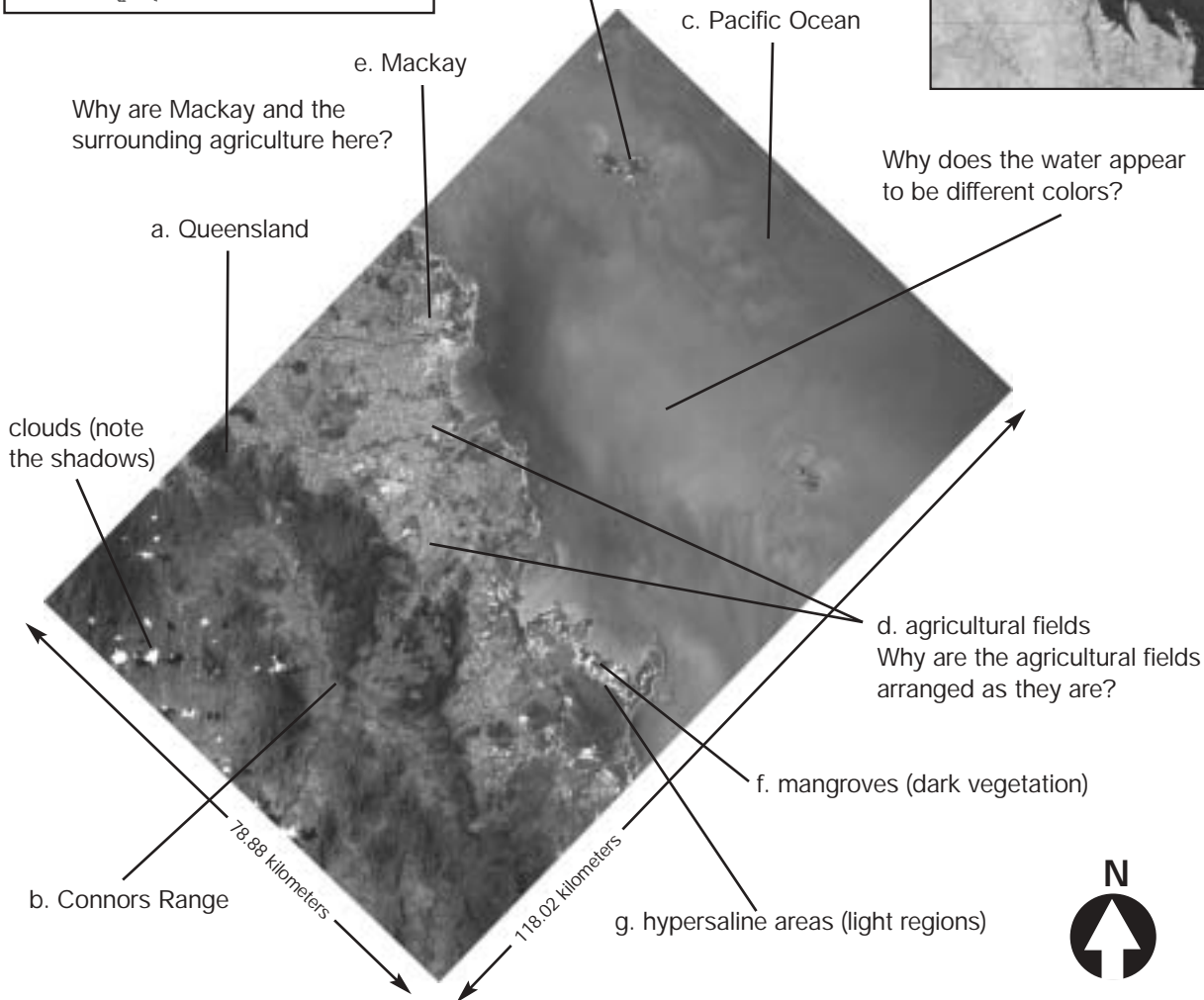
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Northeast Coast of Australia





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Latitude: 21.42° S Longitude: 149.32° E
Date: October 4, 1997
Image ID #: STS086.ESC.08023638

This part of northeastern Australia along the coast of Queensland (a) shows variable topography and landcover. The elevation in the image drops from between 2,500 and 3,500 feet in the Connors Range (b) to sea level at the Pacific Ocean (c). Because this region receives some of the highest rainfall in Australia, the mountains are heavily eroded, gullied, and covered in forest. The afternoon sunlight highlights the shape of the mountains and the river drainage network through them. The rainfall is seasonal, however, and this image was taken during the dry season. Tell-tale rectangular land-use patterns along the coastal plain indicate extensive agriculture (d), primarily sugar and cotton. The gray region at the northern end of the coastline is the small city of Mackay (e). In the southern part of the image, the irregular coastline is fringed with dark vegetation, probably mangroves (f), and light regions, possibly hypersaline areas (g), in the upper reaches of the coastal tidal flats. Sediment suspended in the coastal waters traces the tidal and nearshore currents and creates patterns offshore around the small islands (h).

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